

Appln. No.: 10/750,971
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

REMARKS

The transitional phrase, “which contains,” in claims 1 and 7 has been changed to “consisting essentially of.”

Claims 2, 5, 8 and 21 have been canceled.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10-20 will be pending.

The Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement issued February 7, 2006. As a result of Applicants election of group I, claims 1-20, the Examiner withdrew claim 21 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected claim.

Claim 21 has been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to claim 21.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 have been canceled, rendering the foregoing rejection moot.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly be anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Morinaga et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0144163 (“Morinaga”).

Morinaga is directed to a substrate surface cleaning liquid medium and a cleaning method using the cleaning liquid medium (abstract). The cleaning liquid disclosed in Morinaga contains the following ingredients (A), (B), (C), and (D) has a pH of 9 or higher, and a content of ingredient (C) of 0.01 to 4% by weight:

(A) an ethylene oxide addition type surfactant which has an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group and a polyoxyethylene group in the same molecular structure and in which the ratio of the number of carbon atoms contained in the hydrocarbon group (m) to the number of oxyethylene groups in the polyoxyethylene group (n), m/n , is $m/n \leq 1.5$,

(B) an alkali ingredient,

(C) hydrogen peroxide, and

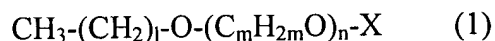
(D) water (abstract).

It is clear that hydrogen peroxide is an essential component of the cleaning liquid medium disclosed in Morinaga.

When the transitional phrase, "consisting essentially of" is used, the scope of the claim is directed to the specified materials or steps "and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s)" of the claimed invention.

Applicants' claim 1 is directed to:

A cleaning solution for semiconductor substrates consisting essentially of a nonionic surface active agent represented by the following formula (1), a chelating agent and a chelating accelerator, wherein formula (1) is:



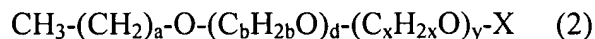
wherein l, m and n independently represent a positive number, and X represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, and wherein a starting material of the oleophilic group portion, $\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_l-$, is a primary alcohol and l is 9-11.

Applicants' claim 7 is directed to:

A cleaning solution for semiconductor substrates consisting

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essentially of a nonionic surface active agent represented by the formula (2), a chelating agent and a chelating accelerator, wherein formula (2) is:



wherein a, b, d, x and y independently represent a positive number, b and x are different, and X represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, and wherein the starting material of the oleophilic group portion, $\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_a-$, is a primary alcohol and a is 9-11.

Claims 1 and 7 as amended include the transition phrase “consisting essentially of” and therefore claims 1 and 7 exclude a material that would “materially affect the basic and novel characteristics” of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 as amended exclude the presence of hydrogen peroxide. Therefore, it is clear that claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated or rendered obvious based on Morinaga. Claims 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10-20 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 7 and therefore are not anticipated or rendered obvious based on Morinaga at least by virtue of their dependency. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 28, 2006